

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

2. (previously presented): An information server system which comprises a server device transmitting information in response to a request, and at least one client device being connected to said server device and sending a request for transmission of information to said server device, wherein:

said server device includes:

schedule management means for managing relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas;

request receiving means for receiving, from said client device, a request for transmission of information,

area determination means for determining in which area at least one client device having sent a request for transmission of information exists,

information providing means for referring to said schedule management means, and for selecting classified information corresponding to a present time in a time zone of the area which is determined by said area determination means, and

information sending means for sending, through the network, the information selected by said information providing means to a predetermined client device which has sent the request for transmission of the information; and

said at least one client device includes

request sending means for sending a request for transmission of information to said server device through the network;

information receiving means for receiving the information sent from said information sending means through the network; and

information outputting means for outputting the information received by said information receiving means.

3. (previously presented): The information server system according to claim 2, wherein: said server device further includes schedule information sending means for sending schedule information representing relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information to said at least one client device through the network;

said at least one client device further includes

schedule information receiving means for receiving schedule information sent from said schedule information sending means through the network, and

request inputting means for inputting a request for transmission of information from said server device, in accordance with the schedule information received by said schedule information receiving means; and

said request sending means for sending a request for transmission of information to said server device based on an input from said request inputting means.

4. (previously presented): The information server system according to claim 2, further comprising an intermediate device which has at least one client device thereunder, and is connected to said server device through the network, and intermediates entire data transmissions between said at least one client device and said server device, and wherein:

said intermediate device includes

second schedule management means for managing schedule information representing substantially same contents as the relevance between the classifications of information and the respective transmission times of the information managed by said schedule management means,

information storage means for storing information provided by said information providing means in one of said at least one client device under said intermediate device, and

request processing means for processing a request, for transmission of information, received from said at least one client device under said intermediate device, and for providing corresponding information to said at least one client device; and

said request processing means

refers to said second schedule management means so as to determine whether the information requested to be transmitted by said at least one client device is stored in said information storage means,

reads out, when determined that the requested information is stored in said information storage means, the requested information from said information storage means, and provides said at least one client device with the read information, without sending a request for transmission of the information to said server device through the network, and

sends the request, when determined that the request information is not stored in said information storage means, to said server device through the network, and controls said information providing means to provide the requested information.

5. (previously presented): The information server system according to claim 2, wherein the network is Internet.

6. (previously presented): An information server system which transmits information to at least one client device which has sent through a network a request for transmission of the information, said system comprising:

a schedule manager which manages relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas

an area determinater which determines in which area a device having sent a request for transmission of information exists;

an information provider which refers said schedule manager, and selects classified information corresponding to a present time in a time zone of the area which is determined by said area determinater; and

an information transmitter which transmits the information selected by said information provider to said at least one client device, which has sent the request, through the network.

7. (previously presented): A method for providing information, in a system comprising a server device and at least one client device connected to said server device through a network, for transmitting information from said server device to said at least one client device through the network in response to a request from said at least one client device, said method comprising the steps of:

managing relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas in said server device;

sending a request for transmission of information through the network from said at least one client device to said server device;

selecting in said server device classified information corresponding to a present time in a time zone of the area in which said at least one client device, which has sent a request for transmission of the information, exists;

transmitting the selected information from said server device to said at least one client device, which has sent a request for transmission of the information, through the network; and

outputting the transmitted information from said at least one client device.

8. (previously presented): A method for providing information to at least one client device which has requested transmission of the information; said method comprising the step of:

managing relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information; and relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas; and

sending classified information corresponding to a present time in a time zone of the area in an information requester to the information requester through the network, with reference to said schedule management means.

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended): A server device which is connected to at least one client device through a network; said server device comprising:

schedule management means for managing relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas;

request receiving means for receiving, from said client device, a request for transmission of information,

area determination means for determining in which area at least one client device having sent a request for transmission of information exists; ,

information providing means for referring to said schedule management means, and for selecting classified information corresponding to a present time in a time zone of the area which is determined by said area determination means, and.

information sending means for sending, through the network, the information selected by said information providing means to a predetermined client device which has sent the request for transmission of the information.

11. (previously presented): The server device according to claim 10, wherein said information providing means further includes counting means for counting a number of client devices which have sent a request for transmission of information or a number of client devices to which said information sending means has sent requested information, according to the classifications of the information.

12. (previously presented): The server device according to claim 10, wherein the network is Internet.

13. (previously presented): A server device which is connected to at least one client device through a network, and includes a memory for storing a program and data, a processor for executing the program, and a communications device connected to said processor and for sending/receiving information to/from said at least one client device, wherein

said server device:

manages relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas in said memory;

receives in said communications device a request for transmission of the information sent from said at least one client device through the network;

executes, using said processor, the program stored in said memory in response to the request received by said communications device, and selects classified information corresponding to a present time in a time zone of the area in which at least one client device, which has sent the request, exists; and

sends the information selected by said processor from said communications device to said at least one client device, which has sent the request, through the network.

14-19 (canceled).

20. (previously presented): An intermediate device which is connected to a server device through a network and has at least one client device thereunder, said intermediate device comprising:

schedule management means for managing schedule information representing substantially same contents as relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and information representing relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas managed in said server device;

information storage means for storing information provided by said server device to said at least one client device under said intermediate device; and

request processing means for processing a request, for transmission of information, sent from said at least one client device, and for providing said at least one client device with corresponding information, and

wherein said request processing means

refers to said schedule management means, and determines whether information requested from said at least one client device is stored in said information storage means,

reads out requested information from said information storage means and provides said at least one client device with the read information, without sending the request to said server

device through the network, when it is determined that the requested information is stored in said information storage means, and

sends the request to said server device through the network, controls said server device to transmit corresponding information, and provides said at least one client device, when it is determined that requested information is not stored in said information storage means.

21. (original): The intermediate device according to claim 20, wherein the network is Internet.

22. (previously presented): An intermediate device which is connected to a server device through a network, and includes at least one client device thereunder, a memory for storing a program and data, a processor for executing the program, and a communications device connected to said processor and for sending/receiving information to/from said at least one client device, wherein:

said intermediate device

manages in said memory schedule information representing substantially same contents as relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and time-zone information representing relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas managed in said server device, and

stores in said memory information provided from said server device to said at least one client device; and

said processor

refers, when received a request for transmission of information from said at least one client device, to said schedule information and said time-zone information managed in said memory, and determines whether information corresponding to the request is stored in said memory

provides said at least one client device which has sent the request with the information corresponding to the request, without sending the request to said server device through the network, when it is determined that the requested information is stored in said memory, and

sends the request to said server device through the network, controls said server device to transmit information corresponding to the request, and provides said at least one client device with the transmitted information, when it is determined that the requested information is not stored in said memory.

23. (previously presented): A computer readable recording medium which stores a program which makes a computer device, connected to a plurality of client devices through a network, function as:

schedule management means for managing relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas;

request receiving means for receiving a request for transmission of information, sent from one of said plurality of client devices;

area determination means for determining in which area at least one client device having sent a request for transmission of information exists with reference to said schedule management means;

information providing means for referring to said schedule management means, and for selecting classified information corresponding to a present time in a time zone of the area which is determined by said area determination means; and

information sending means for sending the information selected by said information providing means to the one of said plurality of client devices, which has sent the request, by said information providing means through the network.

24. (canceled).

25. (previously presented): computer readable recording medium storing a program which makes a computer device, which is connected to a server device through a network and has at least one client device thereunder, function as:

schedule management means for managing schedule information representing substantially same contents as relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and information representing relevance between information

representing areas and time zones of the respective areas managed by said server device on the network;

information storage means for storing information sent from said server device to said at least one client device; and

request processing means for sending a request, for transmission of information, sent from said at least one client device, to said server device, and

wherein said request processing means

refers to the schedule management means, and determines whether information requested from said at least one client device is stored in said information storage means,

reads out information corresponding to the request and provides the read information to said at least one client device, without sending the request to said server device through the network, when it is determined that the requested information is stored in said information storage means, and

sends the request to said server device through the network, and controls said information providing means to transmit the requested information, when determined that the requested information is not stored in said information storage means.

26. (previously presented): A program data signal which is embodied in a carrier wave and transmitted through a communications path, said signal including segments for making a computer, which is connected to a plurality of devices through a network, function as:

schedule management means for managing relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas;

request receiving means for receiving a request for transmission of information, sent from one of said plurality of client devices e ;

area determination means for referring to said schedule management means, and for determining in which area at least one client device having sent a request for transmission of information exists with reference to said schedule management means;

information providing means for referring to said schedule management means, and for selecting classified information corresponding to a ; present time in a time zone of the area which is determined by said determination means; and

information sending means for the information selected by said information providing means to the one of said plurality of client devices , which has sent the request, by said information providing means through the network.

27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented): A program data signal which is embodied in a carrier wave and transmitted through a communications path, said signal including segments for making a computer device, which is connected to a server device through a network on the network and has at least one client device thereunder, function as:

schedule management means for managing schedule information representing substantially same contents as relevance between classifications of information and transmission times of the information and information representing relevance between information representing areas and time zones of the respective areas managed by said server device on the network;

information storage means for storing information provided from said server device to said at least one client device; and

request processing means for sending a request, for transmission of information, sent from said at least one client device to said server device, and

wherein said request processing means:

refers to said schedule management means, and determines whether information requested by said at least one client device is stored in said information storage means;

reads out the requested information from said information storage means, and provides the read information to said at least one client device, without sending the request to said server device through the network, when it is determined that the requested information is stored in said information storage means; and

sends the request to said server device through the network, and controls said information providing means to provide the requested information, when it is determined that the requested information is not stored in said information storage means.

29. (new): The server device according to claim 10, wherein said information providing means further includes counting means for counting at least a number of client devices to which said information sending means has sent requested information, according to the classifications of the information.